prevention of HIV/AIDS, and also to sensitize learners, school teachers, Principals and the community towards special needs of those affected with HIV/AIDS.

(b) No such instance has come to the notice of CBSE.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) CBSE has conducted several nodal teachers training programmmes for sensitizing teachers, Advocacy Programmes to sensitize Principals and Master Trainer Programmes to create master trainers and resource persons. All these educators further interact with the learners as well as community in large to ensure that persons with HIV/AIDS are treated with dignity and respect.

Upgradation of higher education

799. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the University Grants Commission, higher education in the country is in crying need for an upgrade on almost all indicators from faculty standards to library facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the quality gap in both the universities and the colleges is alarming as 25 per cent faculty positions in universities remain vacant and 57 per cent teachers in colleges do not have either an M.Phil or a Ph.D; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to upgrade higher education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Upgradation in terms of quality is a continuous process in Higher Education.

(b) As per a study conducted by UGC, 24% of teachers in Universities and 57% of teachers in Colleges are without M.Phil / Ph.D. The quality status of different universities/colleges, as reflected in the Assessments made by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) also varies.

(c) UGC has proposed various schemes during XI Plan to mitigate these quality gaps.

Universalisation of elementary education

800. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dream of universalising elementary education by 2010 through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is all set to become a nightmare, as most of the States are unable to match the Centre's share in the new funding pattern of 50:50;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the new funding pattern would certainly derail SSA in the Bimaru States, as nearly 50 per cent of the Rs. 10,600 crore given to SSA in this year's general budget could remain unutilised; and